

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-8, 15-24, 26-32, and 34-38 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8, 15-24, 26-29, and 34-38 are allowed. Claims 30-32, 39, and 42-46 stand rejected. Claims 1, 15, 24, 39, and 42 are in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 30-32 are further indicated as allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C § 112. Claim 30 is so amended and claim 30 and dependent claims 31 and 32 should now be in allowable form. Claims 39 and 42-46 are cancelled by this amendment. Therefore, all listed claims (claims 1-8, 15-24, 26-32, 34-38) are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific objection, issue, or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of the rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicants submit that all claims in the application are now in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If the Commissioner determines that any additional fees or extensions are required, Applicants request that such extensions be granted and any fees be charged to Deposit Account 50-1635.

Respectfully submitted,



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